

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 83 are pending in the present application. No claims were amended, cancelled, or added, leaving Claims 1 – 83 for consideration. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Obviousness Double Patenting

Claims 53-83 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,716,505 or Claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,893,700. In addition, Claims 1-83 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 7,029,742. Filed herewith is a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,716,505 to Dris et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,893,700 to Dris et al., and U.S. Patent No. 7,029,742 to Dris et al., thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Claims 1 – 83 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claims 51 – 75 of copending Application No. 11/102,068 (hereinafter the '068 Application). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, since neither the present claims nor the claims of the '068 Application, have been patented, there is no way that double patenting can be determined (nothing is patented and there is no way to compare the final claims until one of the cases has been patented and the other claims are otherwise allowable). Until such time, there is no double patenting and no way to determine double patenting.

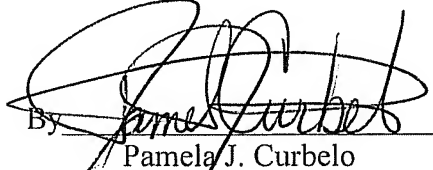
It is further noted, that the present claims are non-obvious over the art of record, as is explained below. Also, if the “provisional” double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the examiner should then withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent...” (MPEP 804.01.I(B)) With the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer, this will be the only remaining rejection. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1131.

Respectfully submitted,

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